

IGNEOUS HILL AND MOUNTAIN
DESERT SHRUB
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

Land Resource Area Trans-Pecos

Location _____

Date January 1, 1972

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occurs as rough broken igneous hills and mountains on slopes ranging from moderately steep to steep, 30 percent plus. Elevations range from 2500 to 3500 feet.
2. SOILS:
 - a. Soils of this site are very shallow, stony loams and clay loams, over igneous rock. The site contains large fragments of boulders and outcrops of hard igneous material. The soils cover less than 20 percent of the surface. The soils have a good plant-soil-moisture-air relationship. Due to slope and lack of soil, runoff is high and if unprotected by cover, sheet erosion becomes severe.
 - b. A soil taxonomic unit which characterizes this site is:
Brewster stony loam
 - c. Specific site location:
3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:
 - a. This site has a climax plant community consisting of short and mid grasses, numerous shrubs, and frequent perennial forbs. Chino grama and lechuguilla are strong community dominants, especially on slopes of southerly exposure. Skeletonleaf goldeneye and feather dalea are predominant woody shrubs in the community. The plant community is broken and scattered in localized pockets of soil surrounded by extensive rock surface and boulders which strongly modify temperature and water relations in the plant community.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

<u>Grasses</u>	65% <u>Woody</u>	25% <u>Forbs</u>	10%
Chino grama	30 Feather dalea	Menodora	
Sideoats grama	Range ratany	10 Bushsunflower	
Arizona cottontop	Skeletonleaf	Mustards	
Green sprangletop	goldeneye	Cutleaf aplopappus	8
Plains bristlegrass	10 Sotol	Mexican sagewort	
Tanglehead	Ocotillo	Daleas	
Cane bluestem	Pricklypear	Croton	
	Pitaya	Wildbuckwheat	
Bush muhly	Leatherstem	Noseburn	
Black grama	10 Lechuguilla	5 Annual forbs	2
	Ephedra		
Slim & rough tridens	Yucca		
Mesa dropseed			
Sand dropseed	15 Whitethorn acacia		
Perennial threeawns	Catclaw	5	
Hairy grama	Narrowleaf		
	foresteria		
Hairy tridens	Guayacan		
Red grama			
Sixweeks grama	5 Butterflybush		
Fluffgrass	Bush croton		
Spike pappus	Shrubby sage	5	
	Mariola		
	Ceniza		

b. As retrogression occurs, fluffgrass, hairy tridens, threeawns, and red grama increase strongly. The site becomes invaded with brush and cacti such as lechuguilla, ocotillo, creosotebush, mesquite, and pricklypear.

c. Approximate total annual herbage yield of this site in excellent condition ranges from 350 pounds per acre air-dry herbage in poor years to 525 pounds per acre air-dry herbage in good years.

4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: Deer, javelina, dove, and quail are the principal wildlife species of this site. The great variety of plants and diversification of life forms provide desirable habitat for all these game species. Scarcity of water may be a limiting factor.

5. <u>Condition Class</u>	<u>Climax Vegetation</u>	<u>Ac/AU/Yr.L.</u>	<u>AU/Sec/Yr.L.</u>
Excellent	76-100	64-107	6-10
Good	51-75	80-160	4-8
Fair	26-50	107-213	3-6
Poor	0-25	160+	0-4

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES 1/

a. Cattle

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Chino grama	Slim & rough tridens	Ocotillo
Black grama	Sand dropseed	Lechuguilla
Arizona cottontop	Hairy tridens	Whitethorn acacia
Tanglehead	Red grama	Catclaw
Sideoats grama	Range ratany	Creosotebush
Green sprangletop	Skeletonleaf	Mesquite
Bush muhly	goldeneye	Leatherstem
Plains bristlegrass	Feather dalea	Croton
Perennial threeawns	Mexican sagewort	Cutleaf aplopappus
Cane bluestem		Annual forbs
Mesa dropseed		Fluffgrass
Daleas		Spike pappus
Menodora		Sixweeks grama
Bushsunflower		
Butterflybush		

b. Sheep

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Menodora	Perennial threeawn	Fluffgrass
Bushsunflower	Arizona cottontop	Spike pappus
Mustards	Slim & rough tridens	Sixweeks grama
Mexican sageowrt	Mesa dropseed	Lechuguilla
Daleas	Sand dropseed	Ocotillo
Wildbuckwheat	Red grama	Whitethorn acacia
Noseburn	Hairy grama	Leatherstem
Some annual forbs	Catclaw	Creosotebush
Range ratany	Guayacan	Mesquite
Skeletonleaf goldeneye	Shrubby sage	
Butterflybush	Mariola	
Feather dalea	Ceniza	
Bush croton	Ephedra	
Chino grama	Croton	
Hairy tridens	Cutleaf aplopappus	
Sideoats grama		
Green sprangletop		
Plains bristlegrass		

1/ Definitions of terms and an explanation of interpretations is given on a separate page which is attached or submitted with each group of range site descriptions.

c. Goats

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Range ratany	Catclaw	Fluffgrass
White ratany	Whitethorn acacia	Spike pappus
Feather dalea	Mariola	Sixweeks grama
Skeletonleaf dalea	Ceniza	Perennial threeawns
Narrowleaf foresteria	Mexican sagewort	Croton
Guayacan	Mustards	Leatherstem
Butterflybush	Wildbuckwheat	Lechuguilla
Bush croton	Slim & rough tridens	Sotol
Shrubby sage	Chino grama	Ocotillo
Ephedra	Black grama	Pitaya
Menodora	Cane bluestem	
Bushsunflower	Sand dropseed	
Sideoats grama	Pricklypear	
Arizona cottontop		
Plains bristlegrass		
Green sprangletop		
Bush muhly		

d. Deer

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Menodora	Whitethorn acacia	Creosotebush
Bushsunflower	Catclaws	Mesquite
Mustards	Bush croton	Sotol
Mexican sagewort	Mariola	Threeawns
Daleas	Ceniza	Fluffgrass
Wildbuckwheat	Ocotillo leaves	Slim & rough Tridens
Noseburn	Yucca blooms	Red grama
Some annual forbs	Pricklypear	Spike pappus
Feather dalea	Croton	Sixweeks grama
Range ratany	Cutleaf aplopappus	
Skeletonleaf goldeneye	Chino grama	
Lechuguilla	Sideoats grama	
Ephedra	Plains bristlegrass	
Narrowleaf foresteria	Green sprangletop	
Guayacan	Black grama	
Butterflybush	Hairy tridens	
Shrubby sage		

e. Javelina

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Pricklypear	Perennial grasses	Annual grasses
Lechuguilla	Perennial forbs	Annual forbs
Roots of some shrubs		Creosotebush
Roots of perennial grasses and forbs		Most woody shrubs
Mast of cacti		
Mast of most woody shrubs		

f. Dove and Quail

Primary

Seed of:

Croton
Mustards
Menodora
Wildbuckwheat
Daleas
Hard-seeded annual forbs
Acacias
Butterflybush
Plains bristlegrass

Secondary

Seed of:

Bushsunflower
Dropseds
Tridens
Sideoats grama
Mast of most woody plants

Low Value

Seed of:

Most grasses
Muhlys
Threeawns
Fluffgrass
Spike pappus
Tanglehead
Bluestems
Creosotebush